

September 28, 2011

RE: 2012 Richmond Hills Park Improvements – Resident Questionnaire

Dear Resident:

The City of Edina has initiated the process of roadway and utility improvements for the summer of 2012 for your neighborhood. The first step was to hold an open house on September 13, for you to become familiar with the process.

Things to know and consider:

- Residents pay a portion of the overall project cost in the form of a special assessment. A typical special assessment ranges from \$6,000 to \$9,000 per Residential Equivalent Unit (REU) or, per property, and is payable over 10 years. The estimated special assessment for your neighborhood will not be determined until after information has been gathered from the questionnaires and a feasibility report is completed. You will not be billed for the special assessment until fall 2013.
- Components of a project vary and are based on questionnaire responses. The special assessment typically includes cost of new roadway, sidewalk and streetlights. Other utility upgrades such as water main, sanitary sewer, storm sewer and concrete curb and gutter are funded through the utility fund and are not special assessed.
- Construction typically starts in spring/early summer and end in late fall of the same year.

The next step is to get feedback from you regarding a number of key components of the project. The information you share with us is essential in determining certain aspects of the project that may be constructed. This information will be discussed at the project informational meeting on October 17.

The following information explains the questionnaire that is enclosed. A map showing the boundaries of the area to be reconstructed is attached to the back of this letter. After reading this letter completely, **please complete the questionnaire and return by October 10**, in the self-addressed stamped envelope.

I. Drainage Service Connection

Do you use a sump pump or have you considered installing one? Do you currently have a footing drain? The project could include a sump drain system along the roadway to collect groundwater, storm water runoff, and discharges from private sump pumps, roof drains or any other runoff from private property. If a sump drain system is installed you could connect to it; however, the line from your house to the City sump drain would be your responsibility, including any plumbing modifications needed to connect.

A typical sump pump discharges onto a homeowner's lawn. This can cause problems with your lawn, your neighbor's lawn, your basement if your lawn drains back to your home or with the street if the sump pump constantly runs down the gutter line promoting algae growth. Discharging the sump pump into the sanitary sewer system using floor drains or laundry tubs is against the law, both by City Ordinance and State Statute.

If the topography and final street designs favor a City sump drain system we will need to know if you currently have a sump pump or a footing drain. The City sump drain system is funded through the storm sewer utility fund.

We also would like to know about any local drainage problems. This might be an opportunity for the sump drain system to correct these issues.

II. Local Drainage Problems

Does storm water run-off stand in the street or sidewalk in front of your house? As part of the storm sewer and sump drain design process, we would like to know if this or similar situations are occurring in your area. If so, please describe it in the local drainage problems section of the questionnaire. We will review for possible corrective action.

III. Private Underground Utilities

Some residents install private underground utilities in the City owned boulevards, also called the right-of-way (ROW). These utilities are usually lawn irrigation or pet containment systems. Utility and roadway reconstruction can damage these utilities. If they are damaged, they will be restored only if you indicate that you have these systems on your returned questionnaire in the private underground utilities section. Additionally, if the contractor knows the location of these private utilities, they can attempt to avoid damaging them during construction.

IV. Residential Streetlights

As part of all reconstruction projects, staff typically asks if residents favor upgrading their streetlight system. In some cases, the streetlight system is at the end of its useful life and requires upgrading. We do not know yet the condition of your specific streetlight system; an evaluation will be done later on. Funding for streetlights are currently through special assessment. The typical cost is approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000 per REU or, per property.

In the residential streetlight option section of the questionnaire are examples of the different styles of streetlighting that could be installed in your neighborhood. Please rank your style preferences. Please note that ranking your style preferences does not mean you are in favor of streetlights.

V. Pedestrian Issues

As part of all reconstruction projects, staff typically asks if residents see a need to add sidewalks in the neighborhood. Funding for sidewalks is split between special assessment, City of Edina and the Edina School District (if the sidewalk falls within a school walking zone). The typical cost to add a couple blocks of sidewalks to a multi-block area is \$300-\$600 per REU or, per property.

If you know of a problem at a pedestrian crossing, missing sidewalk or other pedestrian issues please tell us about it in that section of the questionnaire.

VI. Traffic Management

The Edina Transportation Commission typically reviews traffic issues on local streets. We would like to know if you feel that your roadway has any traffic issues. Please tell us about it in the traffic management section of the questionnaire.

Receive Project Updates via City Extra

If you sign up for our "City Extra" e-mail notification service, you will receive project updates as they occur. During feasibility study preparations, such updates are usually notifications of upcoming meetings. Later, if the Council chooses to proceed with construction of this project, the updates will occur weekly. During construction, the updates will include information such as when access to your driveway might be limited or when to have your contractor repair your private lawn irrigation system if it was damaged by construction activities.

The "City Extra" is our best form of communication with you. This service is free and allows individuals to sign up to receive e-mail messages from the City on a variety of topics. To sign up for the service go to the City Extra website at <http://cityextra.cityofedina.com> and place a check mark in the box next to this project's name, "**Richmond Hills Park Street Reconstruction**". Please contact the City at 952-927-8861 if you are having trouble signing up for City Extra.

Questions

If you have questions after reading this letter, please contact either Assistant City Engineer Jack Sullivan at 952-826-0445 or email at jsullivan@ci.edina.mn.us or Project Manager Jamie Cynor at 952-826-0440 or email jcynor@ci.edina.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Jack D. Sullivan, PE
Assistant City Engineer

Enclosed: Property Owner's Questionnaire
 Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope